



Gender in MENA Projects:

Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment

Training workshop

May 21-23, 2009, Tunis, Tunisia

Gender in MENA Projects:

Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment



Introduction

Context

- The World Bank's Middle East and North Africa Social and Economic Group (MNSEG), in collaboration with the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), the PREM Gender Anchor, and the League of Arab States, is holding this training workshop **in line with the World Bank Gender Action Plan (GAP), and its links to women's economic empowerment and the Millennium Development Goals particularly MDG3**

Context

- Societies where women are more equal stand a much greater chance of achieving the Millennium Goals by 2015.
- Every single Goal is directly related to women's rights, and societies where women are not afforded equal rights as men can never achieve development in a sustainable manner.
- Poverty has a woman's face. Global prosperity and peace will only be achieved once the all world's people are empowered to order their own lives and provide for themselves and their families.
- The basic premise is that increased investment in women provides support to economic growth and poverty reduction.

(source UNDP)



3

PROMOTE GENDER
EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER WOMEN

Global Context

- ❑ **Of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty around the world, 70% are women.** (Source: World Revolution)
- ❑ **Women do about 66% of the world's work in return for less than 5% of its income.** (Source: women's international network)
- ❑ **In the least developed countries nearly twice as many women over age 15 are illiterate compared to men.** (Source: UNFPA)
- ❑ **Two-thirds of children denied primary education are girls, and 75% of the world's 876 million illiterate adults are women.** (Source: AskWomen)
- ❑ **Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, and yet earn only 10% of the world's income and own less than 1% of the world's property.** (Source :World Development Indicators, 1997, Womankind Worldwide)



Context in the MENA region

- the participation of women in non-agricultural employment in the least developed Arab countries decreased by almost 5% between 1990 and 2004
- On average, women in the Arab region accounted for only 18.3% of total paid employments in the industrial and services sector in 2004,
- According to report, women in the Arab region held only 8.7% of the region's parliamentary seats in April 2007, a figure among the lowest in the world.
- Moreover, the continuous military occupation in Palestine and Iraq and some regions of Lebanon and Syria has increased the level of poverty in these zones and undermined the development progress, and thus limited the chances for women's economic empowerment,



3

PROMOTE GENDER
EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER WOMEN

What to do?

“Poverty cannot be eradicated without equality and justice for women. Current international policies rob women of livelihoods, healthcare and other economic rights, while feeding a fundamentalist backlash and militarism that deprive women of personal autonomy and choices. Our demands are fundamental to breaking through this paradigm, they are not cosmetic, they need dedicated funding and integration into all existing policy decisions.”

*Ana Agostino, The Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP),
Co-Chair and spokesperson for the Feminist Task Force*

workshop

- 1.** to provide knowledge and skills on gender issues in MENA,
- 2.** to integrate gender in projects in a way that supports monitoring and evaluation of women's economic empowerment.
- 3.** to provide the opportunity to network and share knowledge and experiences on key gender issues and successful initiatives in the MENA region and elsewhere.

Expected Results

- ❑ The gender operational framework for women's economic empowerment in the context of MDG3 better understood,
- ❑ Methods/skills used to mainstream gender equality adapted to X related sectors.
- ❑ Monitoring and Evaluation plan on gender identified issues developed with x selected indicators
- ❑ Outlines to develop an adapted module to be posted on the WB MNA website prepared and validated.

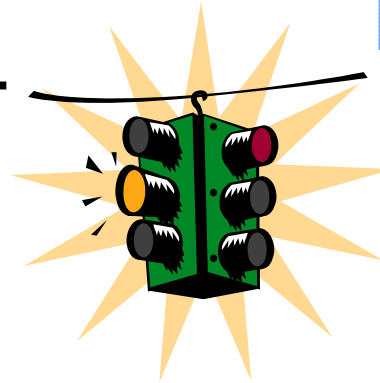
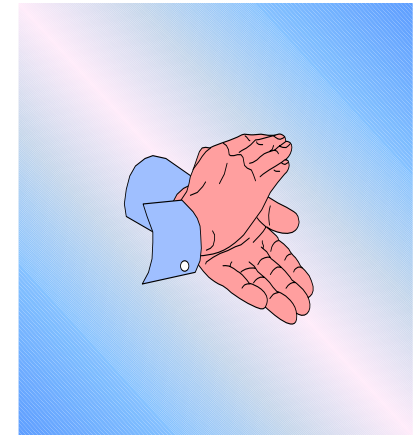
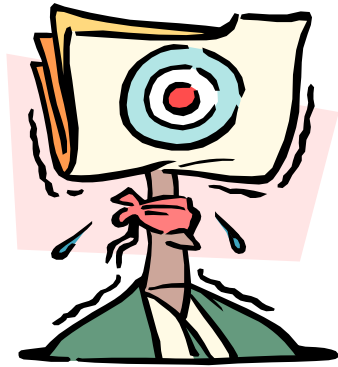
Areas covered during the workshop

- ❑ Development and gender work in MENA
- ❑ Women's economic empowerment and the Gender Action Plan,
- ❑ Level of gender integration in MENA projects,
- ❑ Best practices and lessons learned from gender mainstreaming in GAP-related projects,
- ❑ Analytical and operational tools for gender integration, and
- ❑ Development of a M&E plan with the appropriate gender indicators for individual projects. For more detailed information, see the agenda below.

Principles & Methods of Work

- **Participatory approach**
- **Sharing knowledge, good practices and lessons learnt**
- **Building consensus**
 - **Presentation, brainstorming, discussion**
 - **Working groups**

Rules of Work





Thank you